

Kansas Society of Professional Engineers  
Legislative Report  
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*Note: the opinions expressed herein are those of the author  
and do not necessarily reflect the positions of KSPE, its members or its leadership.*

### **CTP Funding Receives Lukewarm Response from GOP Leaders**

Governor Sebelius proposal for fulfilling funding commitments to the Comprehensive Transportation Plan has received less than enthusiastic support from key Republican leaders. Both Senate President Dave Kerr and House Speaker Doug Mays have questioned whether the legislature is prepared to support authority for an additional \$450 million in bond authority. Kerr in particular noted this past week that the legislature rejected authority for more than \$1 billion in bonds when the CTP was first passed in 1999. He predicted that it would be difficult to exceed that threshold in 2004. Key concern here is that future generations of Kansans will be forced to pay for improvements that outlive the bond obligations.

CTP proponents also seem split. I'm told that the Kansas Contractors Association and the Kansas Aggregate Producers Association were both "neutral" when asked to endorse the Governor's funding mechanism.

Of course, no one has come forward with a better solution. With state revenues still tight, public education and social services have effectively staked claim to any additional dollars, including the sales tax transfer previously committed to the CRP. And with 2004 being an election year from all House and Senate members, there appears little support for a major tax increase. Even the Governor's Education First initiative calling for \$304 million in new revenues over three years for public education is in serious trouble.

Still, the session is early and the time for breaking logjams is still ahead of us. Meanwhile CTP supporters should be reiterating the economic benefits of completing the CTP when visiting with their legislators.

### **CTP Funding Proposal**

Details of Governor Sebelius' CTP funding proposal call for increased bonding authority and partial return of the sales tax transfer to the State Highway Fund:

- Repay \$95 million loan
  - Four equal payments in FY '07, '08, '09, '10
- Restructure debt
  - Net present value savings \$3.9 million
  - Debt service payments moved to FY 2010-2016
  - \$161 million savings FY 2005-2009

- Savings from System Enhancement projects and adjust set-asides (\$253 Million through FY 2009)
  - System Enhancement Project Savings - \$109 million
  - Reduce future funds allocated for
    - Set-aside projects - \$64 million
    - Rail-grade separation projects on state system - \$49 million
    - Pavement marking set-aside - \$31 million
- Move Kansas Highway Patrol funding to Highway Fund
  - \$32 million per year plus inflation
  - From FY 2005 through life of program (FY 2009)
  - In addition to historical funding of motor carrier inspection
- Adjust sales tax transfer
  - 0% in FY 2005 & 2006
  - 3% in FY 2007
  - 6% thereafter
  - Original sales tax transfer rate was 12%
  - Eliminating the 05 and 06 transfers and reducing the 07-09 transfers saves the State General Fund \$675 million
- Issuance of General Fund-backed bonds
  - FY 06 - \$100 million
  - FY 07 - \$150 million
  - FY 08 - \$215 million
  - General Fund Debt Service FY 2007-2009 would cost \$66 million
- Stated Advantages of Governor’s Plan
  - Protects the core of the CTP
  - Realistic, sustainable sales tax transfer
  - General Fund-backed bonds provide certainty for program

## **New Bills**

[HB 2539](#). Would broaden the definition of “research facility” that can be constructed with the Research and Development bond money that was approved by the legislature three years ago to include for-profit and not-for-profit facilities including agricultural, industrial and commercial enterprises and educational and health care institutions. The bill has been assigned to the House Economic Development Committee.

[HB 2578](#). Would amend and broaden the current authority of the Kansa Water Office to issue bonds for water-related projects, specifies that bonds would be issued by the Kansas Development Finance Authority, and authorizes water agencies other than the Kansas water office to request bonds be issued. Assigned to House Appropriations Committee.

## **Legislator Information**

Need an address or phone number? Click on the following links.

Roster of House of Representatives: <http://www.kslegislature.org/houseroster/index.html>

Roster of Senate: <http://www.kslegislature.org/senateroster/index.html>

## 2004 Bill Deadlines

January 26	Deadline for Bill Requests by Legislator
February 4	Deadline for Bill Requests by Committee
February 11	Deadline for Bill Introduction by Legislator
February 13	Deadline for Bill Introduction by Committee
February 28	Deadline for Bill Consideration in the House of Origin
March 27	Deadline for Bill Consideration in the Other House
April 10	Deadline for Consideration of all Bills, except bills vetoed by Governor, Omnibus Appropriations Act and Omnibus Spending Limit Bill
April 28	Likely start of Veto Session

**Need a copy of a bill?** Click on the hyperlink at the beginning of the bill update. If that doesn't work, copies of all bills are available for free over the Internet from the state's new information portal [AccessKansas](http://www.accesskansas.com). Go to <http://www.kslegislature.org/cgi-bin/index.cgi>.

There you will find access to bills, list of legislators, committee assignments, committee schedules, and other useful links to stay informed about Kansas' government. AccessKansas is a great tool.

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